ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE PROFILES

Immigrants in the Labour Force

2012

2012
Labour Force Profile

Immigrants

Highlights

Please see the appendix for important definitions.

1. Immigrants in Alberta

- Of the 6.5 million working age immigrants in Canada, 9.1% lived in Alberta in 2012.
- Alberta's immigrants accounted for 19.2% of its working age population in 2012, the third highest percentage among the provinces.
- Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada increased from 6.5% in 2002 to 13.9% in 2012.

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

- Alberta had the second highest labour force participation and highest employment rates of immigrants among provinces in Canada in 2012.
- The participation rates of Alberta's male and female immigrants, 76.3% and 63.6% respectively, were lower than the participation rates for all males and females in the province.
- Immigrants accounted for 22.4% of Alberta's unemployed people in 2012.
- Recent immigrants experienced a higher unemployment rate than other immigrants or all Albertans.
- The unemployment rate of established immigrants, of 4.9%, was higher than the provincial rate of 4.6%.

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector employed 76.9% of all working immigrants compared to 71.2% of all working Albertans in 2012.
- Over one quarter of all working immigrants were employed in Trade (retail and wholesale) and Health Care and Social Assistance industries.

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

- The proportion of immigrants who were employed in the following occupations was higher than the proportion for all Albertans: Sales and services; Natural and applied sciences; Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities; and Health.
- Of employed very recent immigrants, 37.0% worked in the Sales and services occupations compared to 22.5% of all Albertans.

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

- A slightly higher percentage of employed immigrants, 85.7%, worked full-time compared to 83.7% of all employed people in Alberta.
- A higher percentage of Albertans aged 15-24 worked full-time compared to similarly aged immigrants.

6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

- On average, immigrants earned $2.15 less per hour than all Albertans.
- Immigrants earned higher average hourly wages than all Albertans in the following six industries: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Information, Culture and Recreation; and Public Administration; Accommodation and food service; and Utilities.
- The average hourly wage of $26.70 for all Albertans was higher than the average hourly wage of $24.55 for immigrants.
- Among immigrants, established immigrants earned the highest average hourly wage of $26.10, followed by recent immigrants, $24.00, and $20.15 for very recent immigrants.

1. Immigrants[1] in Alberta

The distribution of Canada's immigrant working age population (WAP) by province shows that in 2012, Alberta was home to 9.1% of Canada's working age immigrant population (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Canada's Immigrant Working Age Population by Province, 2012

	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	% Share
Canada	**6,500,600**	**100.0%**
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,200	0.1%
Prince Edward Island	5,400	0.1%
Nova Scotia	41,100	0.6%
New Brunswick	25,100	0.4%
Quebec	892,900	13.7%
Ontario	3,545,300	54.5%
Manitoba	175,000	2.7%
Saskatchewan	74,800	1.2%
Alberta	589,900	9.1%
British Columbia	1,142,800	17.6%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

Alberta had the third highest percentage of immigrants in its working age population at 19.2%, behind Ontario at 32.0%, and British Columbia at 30.0% (Figure 2).

Figure2

Percentage of Immigrants in Working Age Population
Canada and Provinces, 2012

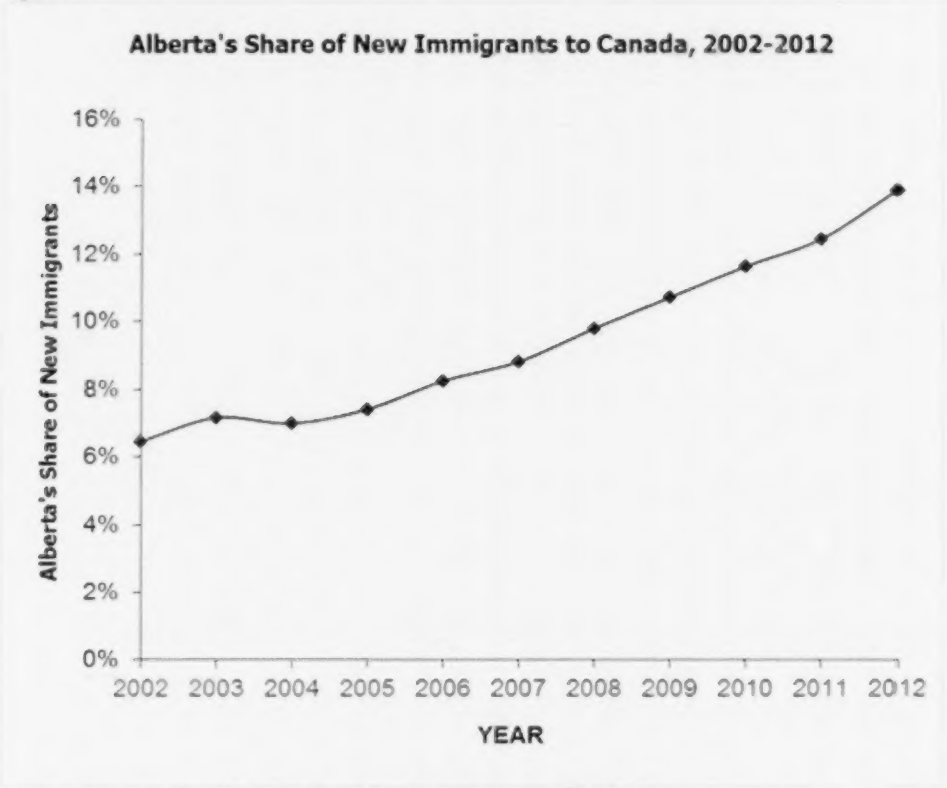
	Total Population (15+ years)	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	% Immigrant Population (15+ years)
Canada	**28,314,700**	**6,500,600**	**23.0%**
Newfoundland and Labrador	427,700	8,200	1.9%
Prince Edward Island	120,500	5,400	4.5%
Nova Scotia	780,300	41,100	5.3%
New Brunswick	620,400	25,100	4.0%
Quebec	6,637,400	892,900	13.5%
Ontario	11,069,700	3,545,300	32.0%
Manitoba	963,100	175,000	18.2%
Saskatchewan	811,000	74,800	9.2%
Alberta	3,069,900	589,900	19.2%
British Columbia	3,814,700	1,142,800	30.0%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

[1] Temporary foreign workers, refugee claimants and other non-permanent residents are not immigrants and are excluded from this analysis.

Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada grew continuously since 2004 (Figure 3). Alberta's share of Canada's new immigrants increased from 6.5% in 2002 to 13.9% in 2012. In this same period, Alberta's share of Canada's total working age population increased from 9.8% to 10.8%.

Figure 3



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Preliminary 2012 Data

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

The 589,900 immigrants in Alberta made up 19.2% of Alberta's working age population in 2012, while the immigrant labour force of 412,100 was 18.3% of Alberta's labour force (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta, 2012

	All Albertans* (15+ years)	Immigrants (15+ years)
Working Age Population	3,069,900	589,900
Labour Force	2,253,500	412,100
Employment	2,149,600	388,800
Unemployment	103,800	23,300
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	5.7%
Participation Rate	73.4%	69.9%
Employment Rate	70.0%	65.9%

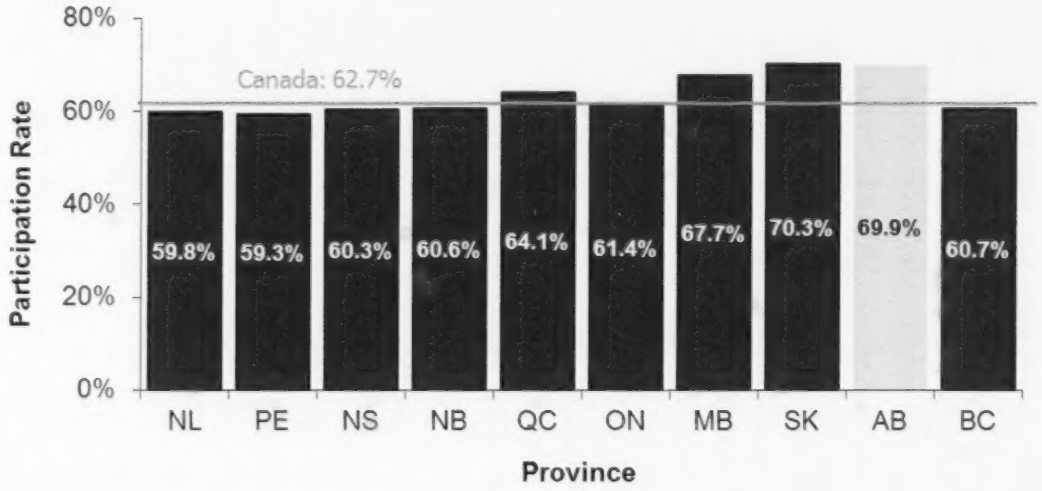
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

* The term "Albertans" means the people or inhabitants or residents of the Province of Alberta

In 2012, immigrants in Alberta had the second highest participation rate among all provinces, at 69.9%. The Canadian rate for immigrants was 62.7% (Figure 5).

Figure 5

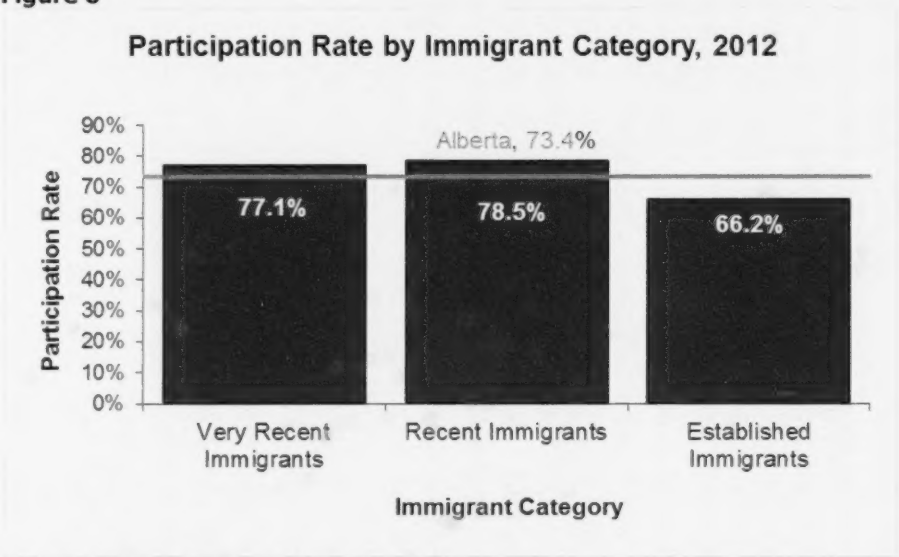
Participation Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2012



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

At 78.5%, Alberta's recent immigrants had the highest participation rate among the three immigrant categories in 2012 (Figure 6). This rate was 12.3 percentage points higher than the participation rate of established immigrants and 5.1 percentage points higher than the rate for all Albertans.

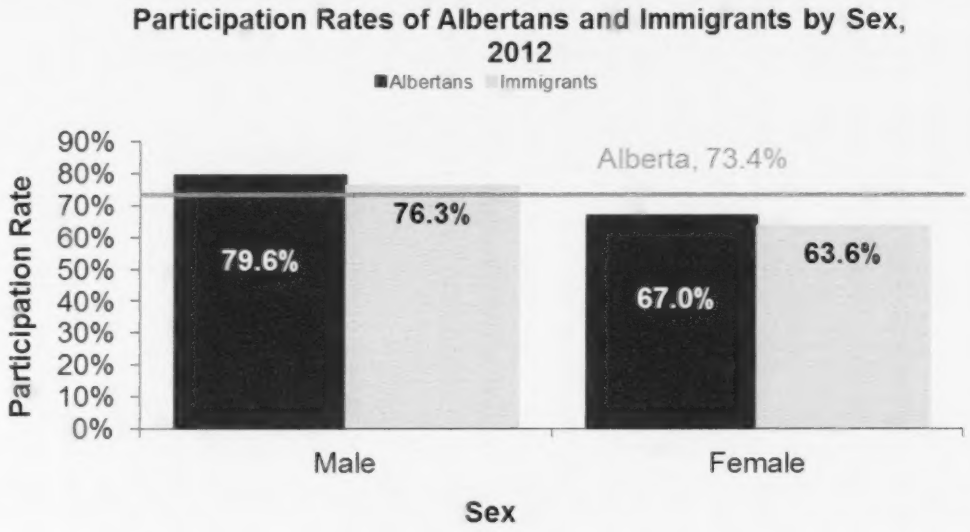
Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012.
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

The participation rates of all males and females in Alberta were higher than the corresponding rates for male and female immigrants (Figure 7).

Figure 7

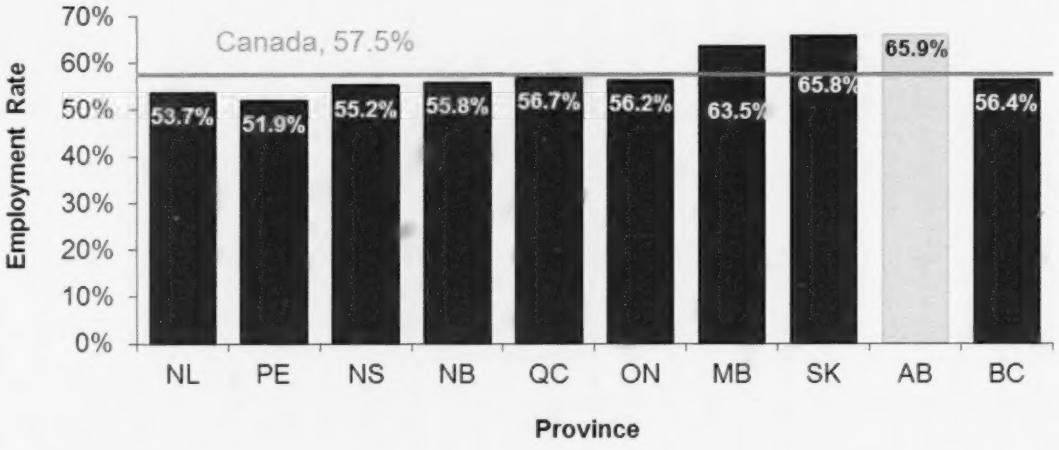


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

Of immigrants in Canada's ten provinces, immigrants in Alberta had the highest employment rate in 2012 (Figure 8). The employment rate of immigrants in Alberta was 65.9%, which was 8.4 percentage points above the Canadian rate of 57.5% for immigrants.

Figure 8

Employment Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2012

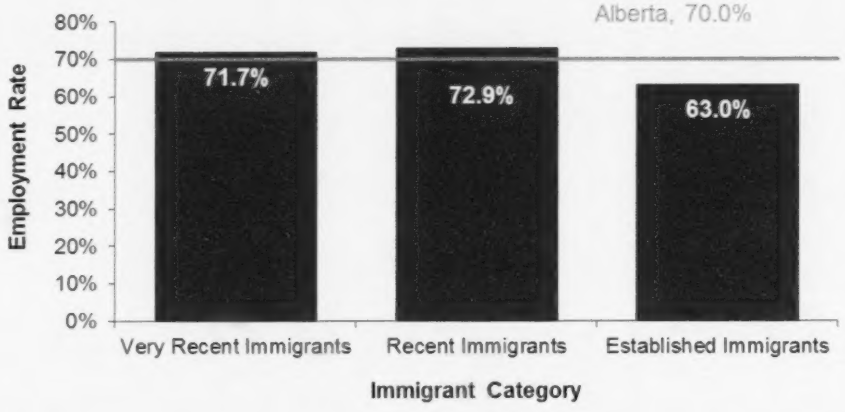


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

In 2012, recent immigrants in Alberta had the highest employment rate, at 72.9% (Figure 9). This rate was 9.9 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants. The employment rate for all Albertans was 70.0%.

Figure 9

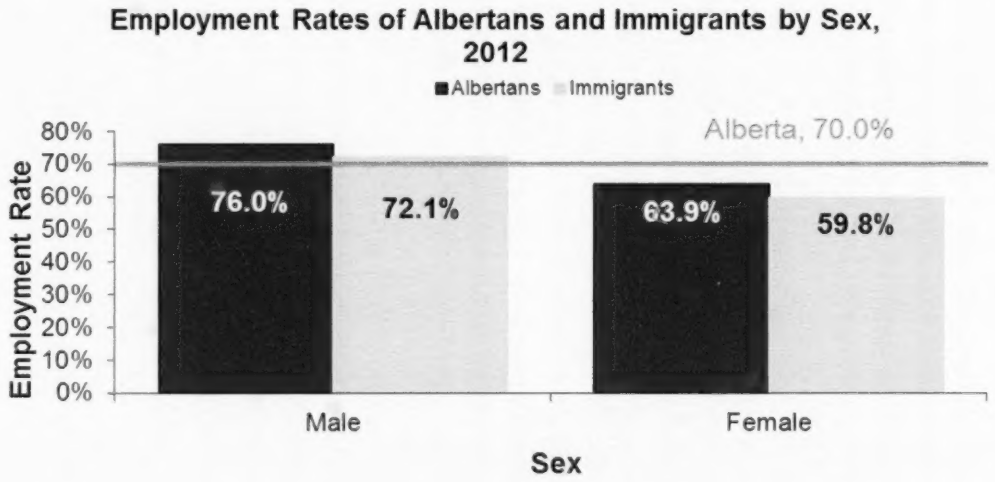
Employment Rate by Immigrant Category, 2012



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2012
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

The employment rate of immigrant males was 3.9 percentage points lower than the rate for all males in Alberta in 2012, and the rate for immigrant females was 4.1 percentage points lower than the rate for all females in Alberta (Figure 10).

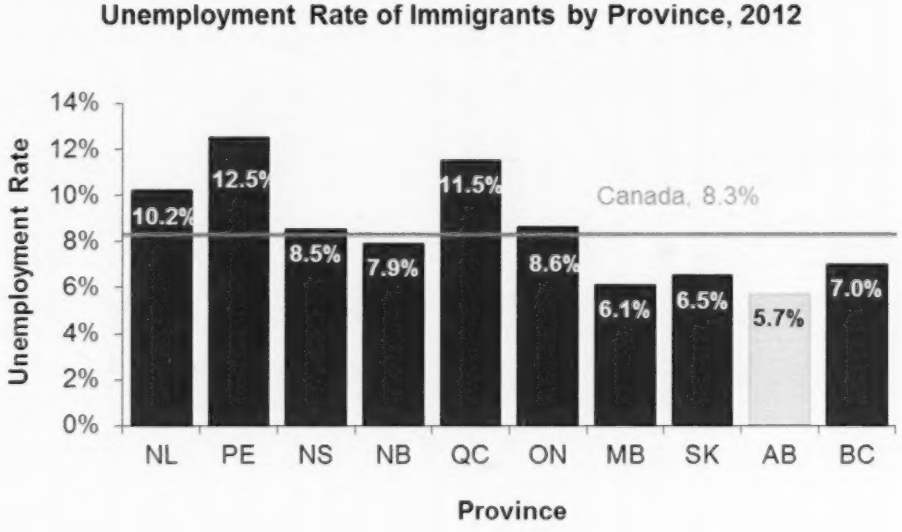
Figure 10



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2012

Immigrants accounted for 22.4% of Alberta's unemployed people in 2012. Their unemployment rate of 5.7% was 1.1 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate of 4.6% for all Albertans but below Canada's unemployment rate of 8.3% for immigrants (Figure 11).

Figure 11

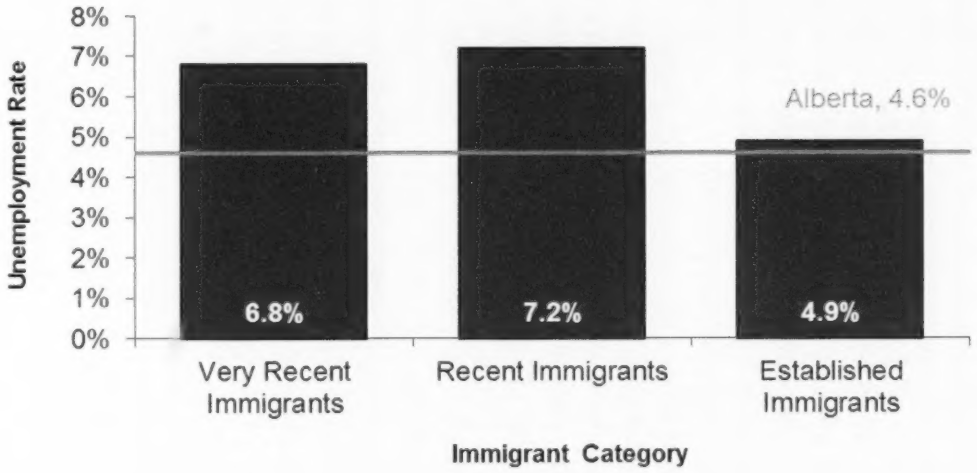


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012
*The rate for Newfoundland and Labrador was not disclosed.

The unemployment rates for immigrants in 2012 varied by the length of residence in the country since arrival. The unemployment rate for very recent immigrants was 1.9 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants (Figure 12).

Figure 12

Unemployment Rate by Immigrant Category, 2012



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2012
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

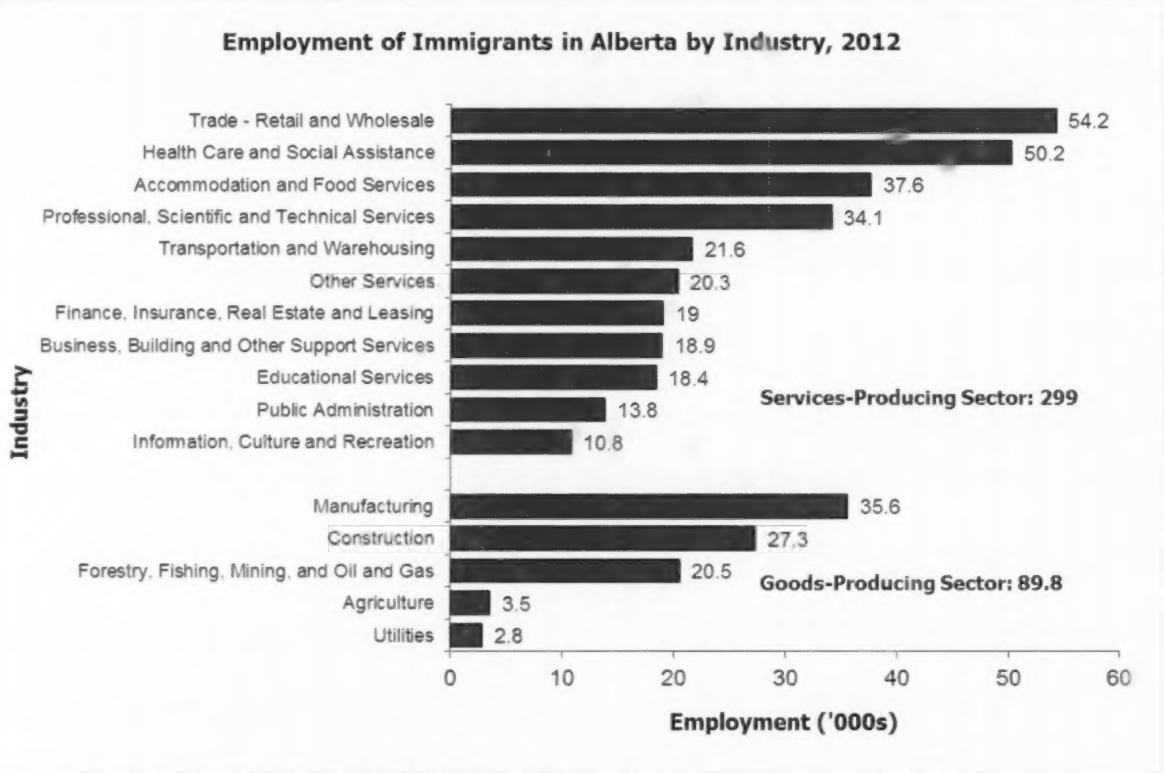
3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

In 2012, 76.9% of Alberta immigrants' employment, or 299,000, was in the Services-Producing Sector (Figure 13). The percentage of all Albertans who worked in this sector was 71.2%.

The top five industries in which immigrants were employed in 2012 were: Trade - Retail and Wholesale, 54,200; Health Care and Social Assistance, 50,200; Accommodation and Food Services, 37,600; Manufacturing, 35,600; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 34,100. Together, these five industries accounted for 54.5% of all immigrant employment in the province.

The proportion of immigrants employed in the Goods-Producing sector was 23.1%, which was 5.7 percentage points lower than the proportion for all Albertans (Figure 14). More immigrants were employed in the Services-Producing sector: 80.9% of very recent immigrants, 76.8% of recent immigrants, and 75.8% of established immigrants worked in this sector in 2012.

Figure 13



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

For very recent immigrants, 47.5% worked in three industries: Trade; Accommodation and Food Services; and Health Care and Social Assistance. For recent immigrants, 45.3%, worked in four industries: Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; Accommodation and Food Services, and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. For established immigrants, 43.9% were employed in these four industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Trade; Manufacturing; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

For all Albertans, 44.4% were employed in the following four industries: Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; Construction; and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas.

Figure 14

Industry	Alberta	Total Landed Immigrants	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Goods-producing sector	**28.8%**	**23.1%**	**19.3%**	**23.2%**	**24.2%**
Agriculture	2.6%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	8.3%	5.3%	3.9%	7.3%	5.2%
Utilities	1.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Construction	10.5%	7.0%	5.9%	6.3%	7.5%
Manufacturing	6.4%	9.2%	8.9%	8.3%	9.5%
Services-producing sector	**71.2%**	**76.9%**	**80.9%**	**76.8%**	**75.8%**
Trade	15.0%	13.9%	19.1%	14.4%	12.4%
Transportation and warehousing	5.4%	5.6%	4.6%	5.3%	5.9%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	4.8%	4.9%	2.5%	6.8%	5.1%
Professional, scientific and technical services	7.3%	8.8%	7.7%	8.7%	9.1%
Business, building and other support services	3.4%	4.9%	6.0%	4.5%	4.7%
Educational services	6.0%	4.7%	3.4%	3.4%	5.5%
Health care and social assistance	10.6%	12.9%	13.2%	12.2%	13.0%
Information, culture and recreation	3.3%	2.8%	0.0%	4.2%	2.6%
Accommodation and food services	6.2%	9.7%	15.2%	10.0%	8.0%
Other services	4.9%	5.2%	5.6%	5.3%	5.1%
Public administration	4.1%	3.5%	0.0%	2.3%	4.4%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

The percentage distribution of all employed Albertans and immigrants by occupation showed that in 2012, proportionately more immigrants than Albertans were employed in four occupations (Figure 15). These occupations are Natural and applied sciences and related; Health; Sales and services; and Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities. Together, these four occupations accounted for 50.9% of all employed immigrants compared to 40.1% of all employed Albertans.

Figure 15

Percent Distribution of Employed Albertans and Immigrants by Occupation, 2012

Occupation	All Albertans	Immigrants
Management	7.5%	7.0%
Business, finance and administrative	17.8%	16.4%
Natural and applied sciences and related	8.2%	11.5%
Health	6.2%	7.5%
Social science, education, government service and religion	7.2%	6.4%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	2.1%	1.4%
Sales and service	22.5%	26.5%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	19.5%	15.7%
Unique to primary industry	5.8%	2.2%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	3.1%	5.4%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

In 2012, the occupation that had the highest proportions of employed very recent, recent and established immigrants was Sales and service (Figure 16).

Figure 16

Percentage Distribution of Employed Immigrants by Category and Occupation, 2012

Occupation	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Management	3.2%	5.1%	8.5%
Business, finance and administrative	12.2%	18.4%	17.0%
Natural and applied sciences and related	10.3%	14.7%	11.1%
Health	9.1%	6.6%	7.2%
Social science, education, government service and religion	6.0%	6.2%	6.6%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
Sales and service	37.0%	26.7%	23.5%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	14.5%	14.5%	16.4%
Unique to primary industry	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	6.2%	4.8%	5.3%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

Proportionately more immigrants, 85.7%, were employed full-time in 2012 compared to Albertans, 83.7% (Figure 17). Established immigrants had the highest percentage of members employed full-time, 86.4%, while Albertans had the highest percentage of part-time employment, 16.3%.

Figure 17

Full- and Part-Time Employment of All Albertans and Immigrants, 2012

	Employment	% Full-time Employment	% Part-time Employment
All Albertans	**2,149,600**	**83.7%**	**16.3%**
Immigrants	**388,800**	**85.7%**	**14.3%**
Very Recent Immigrants	71,100	84.7%	15.3%
Recent Immigrants	64,700	84.1%	15.9%
Established Immigrants	253,100	86.4%	13.6%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2012

In 2012, a higher percentage of all Albertans aged 15-24 was employed full-time than similarly aged immigrants (Figure 18). In the 55+ age group, however, a higher percentage of immigrants was employed full-time than all Albertans.

Figure 18

Full-time and Part-time Employment of Albertans and Immigrants by Age Group, 2012

	All Albertans		Immigrants	
	Employed	Percent (%)	Employed	Percent (%)
All 15+ years	2,149,600	100.0%	388,800	100.0%
Full-time	1,800,000	83.7%	333,300	85.7%
Part-time	349,600	16.3%	55,500	14.3%
15-24 years	315,500	14.7%	23,700	6.1%
Full-time	206,400	9.6%	13,900	3.6%
Part-time	109,100	5.1%	9,800	2.5%
25-54 years	1,458,300	67.8%	284,000	73.0%
Full-time	1,295,300	60.3%	253,600	65.2%
Part-time	163,100	7.6%	30,500	7.8%
55+ years	375,800	17.5%	81,100	20.9%
Full-time	298,400	13.9%	65,800	16.9%
Part-time	77,400	3.6%	15,200	3.9%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

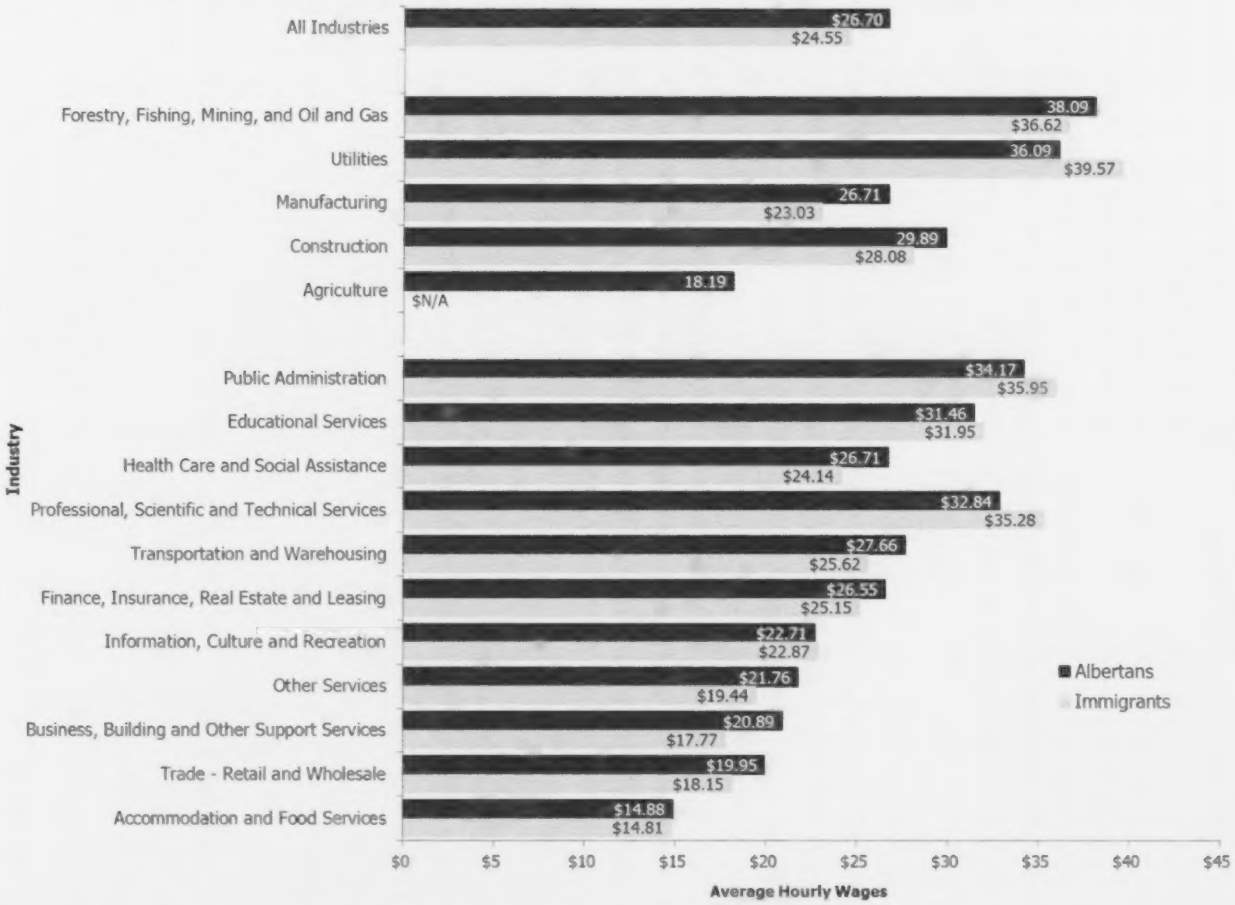
6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

Immigrants employed in five industries earned higher average hourly wages than Albertans: Utilities, Public Administration; Educational Services; Information, Culture and Recreation; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (Figure 19).

Overall, immigrants' hourly wages were $2.15 less, on average, than all Albertans.

Figure 19

Average Hourly Wages of Albertans and Immigrants by Industry, 2012

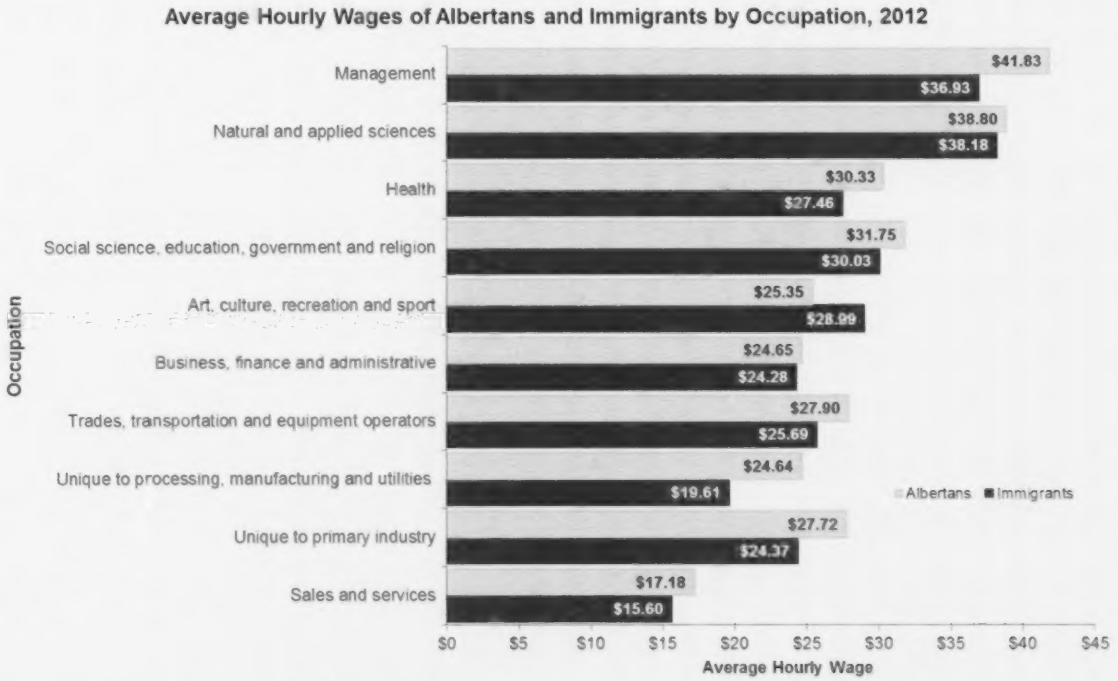


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

The average hourly wages of Albertans were higher than those of immigrants in all but one Occupation: Art, culture, recreation and sport (Figure 20). The three occupations with the largest differences in the average hourly wage between Albertans and Immigrants were: Unique to primary industry, with a differential of $3.35; Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities, $5.03; and Management, $4.90.

The one occupation in which immigrants received an average hourly wage higher than Albertans was Art, culture, recreation and sport.

Figure 20



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

The average hourly wages immigrants received were higher as they became more established in Alberta (Figure 21). Established immigrants received the highest average hourly wage, which were $5.95 more than very recent immigrants and $2.10 more than recent immigrants in 2012.

Figure 21

Average Hourly Wages of Immigrants by Category, 2012

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2012

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Immigrant: Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Canadian citizens by birth and non-permanent residents (persons from another country who live in Canada and have a work or study permit, or are claiming refugee status, as well as family members living here with them) are not landed immigrants. **Very recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for 5 years or less prior to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). **Recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 5 years but no more than 10 years prior to the LFS. **Established immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 10 years prior to the LFS.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.